



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANTS: Michael D. Mabry et al.

SERIAL NO.: 10/008,601

GROUP ART UNIT: 3727

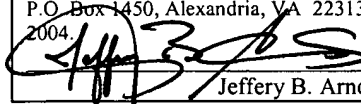
FILED: November 5, 2001

EXAMINER: Hylton, Robin A.

FOR: MANHOLE DEVICE

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as certified first class mail in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on February 9, 2004.

  
Jeffery B. Arnold

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.: 47585-265523

Mail Stop AF  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RECEIVED  
FEB 18 2004  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE

Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed September 8, 2003, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and further examination in view of the following amendments and remarks below.

**Amendment to the Specification** begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the Listing of Claims, which begin on page 3 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 6 of this paper.

**Conclusion** is on page 8 of this paper.